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**YUBA COUNTY WOMAN INDICTED FOR CONSPIRACY
TO POSSESS STOLEN U.S. MAIL AND IDENTITY THEFT**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that GAYLE LEA FARINHA, 39, of Wheatland, California, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury with conspiracy to possess stolen U.S. mail and 12 counts of possession of U.S. mail that had been stolen from mail boxes in Placer County and Yuba County from May 2003 through September 2003. FARINHA is also charged with one count of identity theft, in which she is alleged to have accessed a personnel file while employed at Lorillard Tobacco Company in North Highlands, California. If convicted, FARINHA faces a maximum of up to 5 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and restitution on each of the U.S. mail offenses, and a maximum of up to 15 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and restitution for the identity theft offense.

These cases were investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting the case, two defendants in related cases recently pleaded guilty to felonies in federal district court:

1. On March 9, 2004, Tabitha Marie Heidbreder, 20, of Wheatland, California, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Court Judge Lawrence K. Karlton to conspiracy to possess stolen U.S. mail and possession of stolen U.S. mail. The offenses stemmed from the burglary of the Yuba City Post Office located at 761 Plumas Street, Yuba City, California and the Marysville Post Office located at 407 C Street, Marysville, California.
2. On March 23, 2004, Connie Elizabeth Toledo, nee Repec, also of Wheatland, also pleaded guilty before Judge Karlton to possession of stolen U.S. mail and possession of stolen U.S. mail. In her plea, Toledo admitted assisting Heidbreder in forging the stolen checks and attempting to get cash from depositing the stolen checks in Marysville, California.

The United States Attorney's Office noted that the indictment is only an accusation, and that defendant GAYLE LEA FARINHA is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty

beyond a reasonable doubt.

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